tufted carpet and non-woven carpet is also covered under the TUFS. However, the carpet industry is mainly a household, rural based industry which doesn't require heavy investment on machines etc. The assistance being provided through the existing Design Technology Upgradation Scheme for improvement in tools and equipments, adoption of new technique etc. is considered to be sufficient to meet the present requirement of this sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Textile Parks in Karnataka

3122. DR. VIJAYMALLYA. Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for setting up Textile Parks in various locations in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what is the action plan to consider such request?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has already approved a project proposal for setting up an Apparel Park at Bangalore under the Apparel Parks for Export Scheme.

Recently, Government have announced a new Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) by merger of the Apparel Parks for Export and Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Schemes. The projects not approved or not commenced under the erstwhile Schemes have been given the option to submit proposals under the new SITP.

Quality problem of Indian garments

3123. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of Indian garments has always been a problem for the importing countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when it came to the uniform quality of the apparel, China had an edge over Indian exports; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The export of garments has been increasing over the years. The export of garment increased from Rs. 23,240 crores in 2000-01 to Rs. 27,077 crores in 2004-05 (Provisional), meaning thereby that Indian garments are very much in demand/needed by the international market. However, in order to grab a larger share in the international trade particularly in western market, the exports to which have been under quantitative restrictions till 31.12.2004, the Indian textile industry needs to make more investment towards modernization to improve the quality of textile fabric and garment.

(c) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to increase export of textiles including garments and to keep its brand image intact. Some of the important initiatives taken are as under:—

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The mission comprises four mini-missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.

(v) Ministry of Textiles has recast the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDC) and Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES) for speeding up the implementation of the Schemes and to actualize the vision of attaining export target of $50 billion by 2010. This scheme is based on Public-Private

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Partnership (PPP) and envisages engaging of a professional agency for project execution.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

(vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(ix) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, *w.e.f.* 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme@10% under TUFS in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(x) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches and Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs) are running vanouo courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(xi) Facilities by way of ecd-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification of the Ministry of Defence

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 123 of the Coast Guard Act, 1978, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Defence,